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WHEN DO WE FLY?

JAMES L. H. PECK

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College and School News

The Quarterly Journal of the **Florida A. & M. College** features an extremely interesting article on "Crime in Mound Bayou" by Joseph T. Taylor which casts new light on the claim of that community to be crimeless.

The 24th Annual Convocation of the School of Religion of **Howard University** was held November 12–14 with several notables presenting a critical appraisal of religion in relation to present world problems.

Total enrollment at **Spelman College** this term is 384, the largest registration in the institution's collegiate history.

Dr. John H. Cotton, formerly of Henderson Institute, has been appointed president of **Knoxville College.** Born in Kentucky, he was educated at Knoxville College and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The fourth issue of the **Wilberforce University** Quarterly contains interesting contributions by Georgia M. Teal, George W. Gore, Emmer E. Lancaster, V. V. Oak, D. Ormonde Walker and Mollie E. Dunlap.

Bennett College celebrated Founders' Day on November 13. The principal address was delivered by Dr. Harold Case, pastor of the Elm Street Methodist church, Scranton, Pa. Bennett College was established 67 years ago.

First prize in the seventh annual nation-wide essay contest conducted by the National Tuberculosis Association has been won by Miss Evelyn Love of Jefferson, S. C., a Bennett College junior. Her prize-winning essay, "The Role of the Negro College in the Control of Tuberculosis," netted her a cash award of $50 and a gold medal.

New faculty members at **Fisk University** are Miss Catherine Cater (Library) from the University of Michigan and Dr. James E. Lu Valle (Chemistry) who has finished two years study at the California Institute of Technology under a grant from the Rosenwald Fund.

Fisk celebrates the 75th Anniversary

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of its founding May 1–8, 1941, when the annual festival of music will also be held.

"American Negro Songs" a new book by John W. Work was published in October by Howell Soskin of New York City, and sells for $3.50.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are appearing again for the fourth year on the Magnolia Blossoms program broadcast each Thursday evening at 10 p.m. EST over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company.

Prof. Frank J. Henry, since 1926 head of the department of education at **Tennessee A. & I. State College**, has been awarded a fellowship for advance study in safety education for 1940–41 by the national Center of Safety Education at New York University.

The second issue of **The Fort Valley State College** Bulletin contains significant and interesting articles by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Charles S. Johnson and Sophia O. Moore.

Miss Marie Gagneron and Mr. Lelio Faublas, graduates of the Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs in Haiti, have enrolled in the graduate school of **Atlanta University** as exchange students. Miss Gagneron teaches English in Haiti. Mr. Faublas is the principal of the experimental school of L'Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs, and the author of two important textbooks on reading methods. Both are assisting in the French department.

Fourteen hundred and thirty students are enrolled in the Atlanta University system this year.

Morehouse College begins its 74th year with an enrollment of 351, under the new leadership of President Benjamin E. Mays.

Miss Mary Ann Wheeler of Wilmington, Del., has been elected to membership in the Phi Sigma society, national biological organization at the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Donald Jamison, also of Wilmington, has been chosen one of the undergraduate members of the anthropological club at the University of Chicago. Both are graduates of **Howard High School** in Wilmington, Del.

The Cheyney Training School for Teachers held its annual exercises on October 19, 1940. The general subject was "The Negro in National Defense." Among the speakers were Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, Cheyney President, and Dr. Channing H. Tobias of the National Y.M.C.A.

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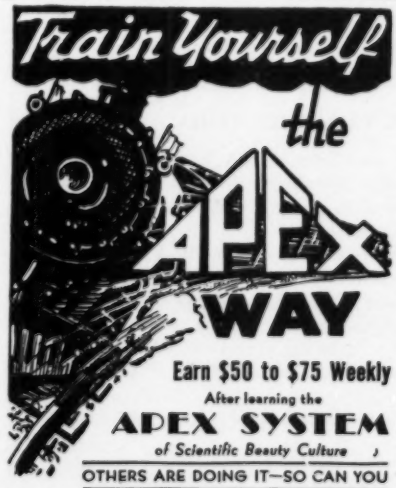

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The **Hampton Institute** sponsored "The Negro in Virginia" was chosen as the Book of the Month Club recommendation for October, being the first WPA book so honored. It sells for $2.50.

A two-day conference on Participation of the Negro in National Defense was held November 25–26. Among the national committee sponsoring the conference were Mrs. Wendell Willkie and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Over 200 well-known Negro and white authorities participated in the discussion.

Tougaloo College began its 72nd session with the following new faculty and staff members: Richard K. Barksdale (English & Dean of Men); Mrs. Richard K. Barksdale (home economics, high school); J. Orville Moseley (music); Miss Marjorie Heck (physical education); Miss Ida V. Battle, R.N. (college nurse).

The 50th Annual Negro Farmer's Conference will be held at Tuskegee Institute on December 18. Aubrey Williams, Administrator, National Youth Administration will deliver the principal address.

Booker T. Washington will be among the noted Americans who will be honored by the National Broadcasting Company in its series "American Pilgrimage." NBC's Ted Malone will pay tribute to the great Negro in a broadcast from "The Oaks" at Tuskegee Institute on Sunday, February 2, 1941, 2 P.M., EST.

Following are the new faculty members of the School of Mechanical Industries: C. Alfred Anderson, chief flight instructor; Royal Dunham (Tuskegee '36), masonry department; Milton Love (Tuskegee '40), assistant in architecture; Prentis Polk, heading photographic division; John A. Welch, (Tuskegee and Howard), head of architectural division; Nelson Brooks (Tuskegee '40) photo-engraving; Frank Rosenberg, flight training, and Joseph T. Camilleri, aviation staff.

Lincoln University (of Missouri) announces the first C.A.A. aviation course for the exclusive training of Negro pilots west of the Mississippi River. The aviation instructor is Charles M. Ashe.

More than 600 students are attending classes this term, the largest enrollment in the school's history.

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Volume 47, No. 11 *Whole No. 360*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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POETRY CONTEST

Dr. Charles Edward Russell of Washington, D. C., one of the founders of the NAACP, and a member of THE CRISIS editorial board, offers a prize of ten dollars to the writer of the best lyrical poem submitted to THE CRISIS. His stipulations are:

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4. Other things being equal, preference will be given to poems in the fixed forms—sonnets, rondeaux, etc.

5. THE CRISIS to have the right to select ten of the poems submitted for publication at its discretion.

6. Contest closes January 15, 1941. Send entries to Poetry Contest Editor, THE CRISIS, 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

James L. H. Peck now lives in New York City with his bride of a few weeks. Detailed information about him will be found on page 376. Jerry Wood is on the publicity staff of WPA in Philadelphia.

Rabbi Harry Essrig lives in Evanston, Ill. A third article by him is to appear soon. Dr. Charles Edward Russell is a veteran journalist and one of the founders of the NAACP.

Violet C. Haywood has written several stories for THE CRISIS. She lives in Nashville, Tenn. William Harrison lives in Boston, where he is on the staff of the Boston Chronicle.

James W. Ivy is chief book reviewer for THE CRISIS. He lives in Virginia.

NEXT MONTH

In the January issue will be an article on the American Negro Exposition held in Chicago last summer, along with other regular features. In an early issue will begin a new series of short stories by Marita Bonner. As soon as the censors and the mails will permit, THE CRISIS hopes to have an article on the Negro pilots with the Royal Air Force.

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

Salute to General Davis

WE salute Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis who was promoted to that rank October 25 by President Roosevelt. For the first time in its history, the United States Army has a Negro officer in a rank higher than colonel. Only Brigadier General Davis and the late Colonel Charles Young reached the rank of colonel. The new general has a long and honorable record as a soldier. He more than deserved his promotion and his worthiness is highlighted, rather than dimmed, by the mean and sly attack of General Hugh S. Johnson in a syndicated newspaper column.

War on the Home Front

DESPITE all the talk of national unity we believe Mr. Roosevelt is going to have tough sledding in his third term. Four-fifths of the lads who are talking unity have stilletos up their sleeves. The anti-administration sentiment (not necessarily pro-Willkie) is strong. There is no disagreement on foreign policy. Such bickering as will occur on national defense and foreign policy will be largely political shadow boxing.

The real struggle is to be over domestic policy, as was indicated in the post-election statements of the Willkie followers. The real issues in the past campaign were not Roosevelt, the man, or the third term, or dictatorship. It was *"what kind of government are we going to have in the United States of America?"*

The driving power behind the assorted anti-administration groups was the deadly fear that even the mildly progressive policies of the New Deal might become so set with the people that they could not be overturned.

A domestic policy which would satisfy the powerful groups that met defeat at the polls would include 1) curtailment of WPA, 2) return of relief exclusively to state administration, 3) repeal or emasculation of labor legislation to hamstring collective bargaining and beat down wages, 4) "adjustment" of taxes, 5) dropping of all action against monopolies, and 6) sabotage of the slum clearance program.

The Third Term can be judged best by what it does on these items. If it backs up on the main one, labor legislation, it doubtless will be found giving ground to all the others. Already an attack on labor is under way with "national defense" as the cloak. The manufacturers who refused to move a peg on national defense contracts until the government removed the profit limitation, waived labor stipulations, and underwrote plant expansion are now yelping that labor is "unpatriotic" because it demands decent wage rates.

Nothing daunts these men. They stare, but see not. So was it with the big English industrialists even until the spring of 1940. Not until Hitler drove the British army into the sea off Dunkirk and then blackened English skies with bombers did they yield.

Negroes have a tremendous stake in all this. The people at the top are slugging with everything they have for the kind of government they want. We are at the bottom, along with millions of other Americans. We have got to slug for the kind of government a democracy is supposed to be. Sometimes we may have to slug Mr. Roosevelt to keep him from joining the others, but we shall always be at war with them.

For war it is—a revolutionary war—except that as yet we are not using guns. The kind of world our people, and perhaps all mankind, will live in for the next hundred years hangs on the outcome.

We Lose Leaders

IN the deaths of Robert L. Vann, editor and publisher of the *Pittsburgh Courier,* and Dr. L. K. Williams, head of the great group of Negro Baptists of America, the race has lost two leaders who were ever in the forefront of the struggle for a better place in American life. Mr. Vann, through the circulation of his newspaper, (the largest of any Negro weekly) struck powerful blows for his people. Dr. Williams was outstanding among the spiritual leaders of the day. We are the poorer for their passing.

For Manhood in National Defense

THE struggle of the Negro for equitable and decent treatment in the national defense program is another aspect of the race's continuing battle for full manhood citizenship rights and privileges in America. Of all the shabby dealings of America with a tenth of her citizens, none is more shameful or more indefensible than her refusal to give Negroes a fair deal in the armed forces.

The citizens' army that is to be trained under the Selective Service act will find shortly that the Army and the Navy are being run very much like country clubs. Americans discovered that in 1917, but there was a war to be fought at once then and there was not much they could do about it. Now it should be different and the peacetime army and its civilian relatives, given a space to think and act before actual warfare interferes, may force some changes.

One section of this Army-Navy creed has dealt with the Negro. He is to be used sparingly in limited services, with emphasis on labor and personal service. He is not to be trained as an officer. The creed has it that Negro soldiers serve best under white officers—and besides wouldn't a Negro officer be "unhappy" among white officers? In the Navy he is to wash dishes, press uniforms, shine shoes. He is not to fly, or drive a tank, or handle communications.

All this says that a Negro American is less than his fellow citizens. He is not good enough to be accepted and trained to fight and die for his country on an equality with other citizens.

In the vast program of arming the country the Negro is shut out of employment in the 16-billion dollar program because these same Army and Navy men have the last word on all contracts.

Under the pressure of the last weeks of the election campaign, Mr. Roosevelt appointed William H. Hastie as civilian aide to the Secretary of War, and Major Campbell C. Johnson as assistant to Dr. Clarence Dykstra, administrator of the Selective Service act. Through these two men, and especially through Mr. Hastie, there is a chance that Negroes may crack the Army-Navy creed. Hitler is helping Messrs. Hastie and Johnson. We can help them and ourselves by keeping everlastingly at the fight.

THE CRISIS repeats that this is no fight merely to wear a uniform. This is a struggle for status, a struggle to take democracy off of parchment and give it life.

When Do We Fly?

By James L. H. Peck

Negroes are being tricked by the Army Air Corps into believing that something is being done toward training Negro pilots. This article by a young Negro aviator who flew and fought in the Spanish civil war tells what must be done

TO fly or not to fly; that is the question. And a vital question it is to Americans of all hue and haema at this time. The United States needs airpower for defense of the western hemisphere. As World War II spreads like an evil plague over heretofore untouched territory, our need of airpower becomes more and more acute. But the country is equal to the task; we are building the finest warplanes in the world; constructing huge airdromes and bases on which to house them; training more than 180,000 mechanics, technicians, and maintenance workers to attend these craft and keep them in the air; and schooling thousands of pilots to fly them. An ambitious program indeed. One to stir the heart and patriotism of even the darker citizenry—despite the fact that, of all these thousands of men, only *three* Negroes are involved in the air defense scheme.

It is much too late now for us—the colored Americans who are helping to pay for this air expansion—to indulge in conjecture as to why the race has been given no representation in not only the Army and Naval air arms, but other technical branches of both services as well. There has been too much speculation and rhetorizing and wishful thinking instead of fact-facing and intelligent action.

As go the words of a currently popular song, "It's no secret anymore." On October 5, under the headline "Negro Patriotism Feels Rebuffed", the New York newspaper *PM* carried a fair, full-column summary of our plight. ". . . barred completely from the Air Corps and Marines, practically excluded from the Navy and so restricted in the Army that applications outnumber vacancies, Negroes cannot help but feel that their country does not want them to defend it," said the *PM* account in part. But, strangely enough, our patriotism is, as always, so fervent that we do want to do our part in the national defense. Reduced to the lowest term, the issue becomes one of Negroes fighting for a chance to fight for the greatest democracy in the world. We must lick a certain bigoted clique in Washington —and points north and south—before we can get at Adolf. And boy, how we want to get to Adolf! The battle on the "home front", however, is of more immediate import.

About James L. H. Peck

(Why is he not good enough for Uncle Sam's Air Corps?)

"Jimmie" Peck, descendant of one of the oldest Pittsburgh families, earned his wings in 1930. Seven years later he was serving as a pursuit pilot in "sunny, bloody Spain" with rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Loyalist Air Force. His articles appear in *Harper's Magazine, New York Times, Scientific American, Science Digest;* and the leading aviation magazines such as *Aero Digest, Popular Aviation, The Sportsman Pilot,* and Street and Smith's *Air Trails.* His militant column, *Plane Talk,* is distributed to more than 100 weekly newspapers through the Associated Negro Press of which Peck is aviation editor.

Armies With Wings, his first book, published last January, was acclaimed by both book reviewers and military men as one of the best of its type. The final chapter, which the *Times* critic called "one of the best descriptions of a test pilot's job ever written" was included in the year's outstanding anthology, *Panorama,* alongside selections by the writers such as Hendrik Willem Van Loon, Christopher Morley, Dorothy Thompson, Vincent Sheean, Carl Sandburg and Jan Struther. Peck was the only Negro author represented.

The author is now hard at work on a new Dodd, Mead book, *So You're Going to Fly?* Jimmie is a member of the National Aeronautic Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and is Pennsylvania secretary of the National Airmen's Association, progressive Negro organization. He is 28 years old.

What Officials Say

Battles usually begin with what is called an "estimate of the situation." Such an estimate can be made only upon scant information gleaned from War Department statements and a thorough analysis of the facts as they are. On October 16, the always accurate *New York Times* carried the following dispatch under the heading, "Negro Air Force Planned. Units Will Be Set Up as Part of Army Expansion."

> "Negro aviation units will be established, in the program of Army expansion, as soon as trained personnel can be obtained, it was said at the War Department today.
>
> "Training of flying personnel already is under way, with the assistance of the Civil Aeronautics Board, using government equipment. Negro pilots are now training at the Glenville Flying School in Chicago.
>
> "The National Youth Administration also is training mechanics and other ground crew personnel.
>
> "The decision to establish Negro aviation units is part of a recently announced policy providing for Negro officers and enlisted men in proportion to their fraction of the country's population—about 9 percent.
>
> "Negro reserve officers will be assigned to colored units officered by Negroes, and when officer candidate schools are opened Negroes will be admitted to them. Regular Army units now officered by whites will receive no Negro officers, however, except medical officers and chaplains."

A few days prior to the publication of this apparently encouraging statement, Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., showed the writer a letter from the White House signed by Col. Edwin M. Watson, secretary to the President, which was far more vague. The last paragraph commented upon the Negro air-units-to-be in this not-

N.A.C.A. Photo

A Brewster Navy fighter, F2A-1, mounted in the world's largest wind tunnel at Langley Field, Va. Not only are there no Negro pilots in the Navy (no Negroes anywhere except as mess attendants) but the Brewster airplane factories at Long Island City, N. Y., and Newark, N. J., have refused to employ any Negro workers

so-encouraging manner: "As to colored aviation units, at the present time the Civil Aeronautics Authority is making a beginning in the preliminary development of Negro pilots, and the National Youth Administration and a number of educational institutions have under instruction colored men for training as mechanics and technical specialists. In order to organize colored aviation units within the Army, it will first be necessary to obtain specialist personnel to man these units. The War Department plans to provide for the acceleration of such training and for the organization of such units as the necessary personnel becomes available."

CAB Not Army Training

I have quoted these newspaper articles and the White House letter because they are, at this time, the only authentic, official references on which we may base our estimate. Ladies and gentlemen of Negro America, I propose to tear these premises to bits: they absolutely do *not* hold water in the light of past, present, or contemplated Army Air Corps policy of procurement of personnel. We are either being purposely misled, or—and this is almost unthinkable in these United States of America—built up for an "awful let-down". There are no other alternatives, as I shall proceed to prove.

First of all, the Civilian Pilot Training Program came into being, not as a possible source of fliers for the Air Corps and Naval Air Service, but rather as a means of creating new incentive for air-minded youth; a means by which to widen the bottleneck in the ever growing aviation industry, a bottleneck which would become smaller if the manufacturers were to continue rapid production of planes and no provision were made for pilot-training on a commensurate scale. Not until September of this year—prior to which time almost 10,000 pilots were trained at 436 colleges and universities and the 75 non-college units throughout the country—was there even an indirect connection between the CAB program and the service air forces. At the beginning of the new school term, candidates were asked to pledge their services to the flying services *if called*. This is the only connection between the programs. How then, ladies and gentlemen, are we to believe that "training of flying personnel already is under way, with the assistance of the CAB, using government equipment" when several students from Hampton and Tuskegee, who had completed the CAB course and received their pilots licenses, submitted applications for Army flying training and were rejected? They did not wait to be called, they volunteered their services. Yet these same young men would be forced to serve in some infantry unit under the terms of the Selective Service Act—as would Paul Williams, Alberto Aybar, Justo Sully, and myself despite the fact that we have had actual combat experience and have held commissions in foreign service—simply because there is "no provision for colored aviation units."

About NYA Mechanics

At Harlem Airport, near Chicago, the one non-college unit for Negroes is training 30 students in 40-horsepower light-planes. No derogatory comment is meant to be directed at the people and students at Harlem Airport. They are doing one grand job with the facilities at hand. But is not the picture of 30 students flying three or four Taylor Cub "put-puts" around a small field a beautiful picture of the "Negro training center" the Department would have the race believe is "already in operation?"

Certain people in Washington must be chortling at this mess. As a flying man it's even funny to me; as a Negro flying man I call it applying Hitlerism to U. S. military policy at a time when the country needs every man who

James L. H. Peck

knows a propeller from a tail wheel! The further one goes into the stink, the more laughs—or cuss words, depending on the viewpoint—one gets. So the N.Y.A. is training mechanics and technical specialists. I would like to ask the office from which that statement emanated whether or not any of the enlisted personnel charged with the maintenance of the $200,000 bombers and pursuit craft of the Air Corps tactical units was "trained" on any N.Y.A. project!

133 Workers per Squadron

That's not all. They say, "In order to organize colored aviation units within the Army, it will first be necessary to obtain trained specialist personnel to man these units." Right enough; they are talking straight this time. Eight men are required on the ground to keep a plane and pilot in the air, when that ship and pilot are operating from a permanent base. When strategy and tactics dictate the use of temporary bases and much shifting about the countryside, as is largely the case in speedy modern warfare, 12 maintenance men per pilot and plane are required for operations. To understand better how this personnel breaks down, let us consider the organization of a full-strength Air Corps pursuit squadron consisting of 28 planes. Aside from the pilots, this squadron—according to the *Air Corps Special Text #183*—requires the services of 133 workers. This includes five Master Mechanics, nine Chief Mechanics, and 48 airplane mechanics of various ratings; one Master Air Communications Mechanic, seven aircraft armorers, five engine mechanics, three instruments mechanics, three aircraft metal workers, seven aircraft radio operators, four aircraft radio mechanics, one First Sergeant, one Chief Clerk, seven administrative clerks, five technical clerks, four stewards and cooks, and 23 enlisted men for miscellaneous duties.

I would like to ask the War Department office of information where and when the N.Y.A. would or could train such a formidable array of personnel. I would like to ask any Army pilot—in fact I have, for I know a great many—how he would like to make a "blind," or instrument flight with gadgets calibrated by an N.Y.A. graduate; or how he would like to meet an enemy in combat with guns attended by an N.Y.A. armorer. This innocent query, ladies and gentlemen, had the whole hangar gang, at a certain field, in an uproar and I'm still laughing. But it's not a laughing matter apropos this discussion. It shows exactly what certain

(*Continued on page* 388)

C O P Y

EXAMINING BOARD FOR AIR CORPS FLYING CADETS

Maxwell Field, Alabama

31/rb

October 11, 1940

Mr. Garland Fort Pinkston,
Cardova, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

Through the most unfortunate circumstances, your application was allowed to be completed because of our ignorance of your race. At the present time the United States Army is not training any except members of the White race for duty as pilots of military aircraft. Such training may be begun during this present national emergency and it is suggested that all papers being returned to you herewith, be held in readiness so that in event the above mentioned training becomes an actuality, your application may be reopened.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for allowing you to go to so much trouble through our oversight in connection with your original letter to this Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

HERBERT M. WEST, JR.,
1st Lieutenant, Air Corps,
Recorder.

5 Incls.
Incl #1 - Application blanks (in triplicate)
Incl #2 - Ltr from C. J. Turner
Incl # 3- Ltr from W. W. Gibson
Incl #4 - Ltr from H. C. Hamilton
Incl #5 - Copy of birth certificate.

This letter speaks for itself

A New Print Process

By Jerry Wood

A description of the role played by Dox Thrash in developing the Carborundum Print Process which is especially suited for portraying Negro subjects; together with a brief indication of the possibilities of the new medium

UNTIL two years ago no artist had made any important addition to the printmaker's art since the discovery of lithography by Alois Senefelder in 1796 and many artists were convinced that there were no new worlds to conquer in this field of art.

Dox Thrash, Michael Gallagher, and Hubert Mesibov have successfully disproved this contention during these past two years by developing the Carborundum Print Process discovered by them to a point where prints in this medium have just been shown in the World's First All-Carborundum Print Exhibition at the State Headquarters of the Pennsylvania WPA Art Project, 510 South Broad Street, Philadelphia.

This new art medium has a special significance because of its wide range of tone in black and white and its suitability for portraying Negro subjects. It is, therefore, particularly fitting that one of the artists who took an active part in helping to develop this new medium, and the one who first roughened up a copper plate with carborundum grains and made a crude sketch with an etcher's burnisher, is Dox Thrash, 48-year old war veteran, and one of America's leading Negro artists.

Before his work for the WPA, Thrash had been a porter, elevator operator, buck-and-wing dancer, steward and soldier.

Thrash's own words, as recorded in the Philadelphia *Record* for October 1, 1940, are best to describe how he came to discover the Carborundum Print Process:

"I always wanted to be an artist, even when I was touring the plantation circuit in a dance-and-patter act with a fellow by the name of Whistling Rufus. So when I happened to get settled in Chicago (I got a job running an elevator), I went to the Art Institute at night for four years.

"When I came to Philadelphia, I studied at the Graphic Sketch Club. There, about 10 years ago, I heard the late Earl Horter say that there hadn't been any important improvement in printmaking in a century or more.

"So I got to experimenting. Sure wasted a lot of copper. Once, after I got on the W.P.A. Project, I got some of the carborundum powder they used in grinding lithograph stones and rubbed it into a copper plate with an old flatiron. I got a queer rough surface."

From this first use of carborundum to alter some lines in an etching, came the Carborundum Print Process which now includes the Carborundum Print, the Carborundum Etching, the Color Carborundum Print, developed in the order named.

After the smooth surface of the copper plate is plowed up by carborundum being ground into it with either an old flatiron or a steel weight known as a levigator, the plate looks somewhat like an aquatint plate. As Thrash describes it, "the carborundum plows up the plate, making little bits of metal stick up like hills. To draw on the plate, all you have to do is take a burnisher and smooth out the parts you want to register light on the paper; the hills you leave will register black because they will catch most of the ink, (and) you can make your hills and valleys of different depths all over the plate, and get all sorts of shades, blending into one another. That's what makes this new method important. That effect could never be gotten before."

Claude Clark and Raymond Steth, two younger Negro artists working for the Pennsylvania WPA, share Thrash's enthusiasm for the new medium. Clark is particularly at home in the Carborundum Etching (in which the design is drawn with acid-resist varnish and an acid bath substituted for burnishing) because he finds that prints like his "Jump-in Jive" and "In the Groove" are best expressed through the freedom of motion permitted by this particular branch of the process. Steth was the first to use the double print method for making color prints on a burnished plate for his carborundum print, "Reggie." In this print he used as model his ten-year old protegee, Reginald Groomes.

Thrash, Clark and Steth are all convinced that this medium provides the colored artist with an important new means of expression. "No other medium," they chorus, "will allow an artist to so clearly reproduce actual textures of skin coloring or permit him to impart so great a luminosity to his finished print."

Several Carborundum Prints by Dox

(*Continued on page* 389)

Myron Krasney

Dox Thrash (left) and Claude Clark

John Brown's Jewish Associates

By Harry Essrig

This is the second of three articles on the activities of Jewish Americans in the cause of freedom and citizenship for the Negro

"WHEN we followed Captain Brown up the hill towards the 'Border Ruffians' Camp, I next to Brown and in advance of Weiner, we walked with bent backs, nearly crawled, that the tall dead grass of the year before might somewhat hide us from the 'Border Ruffian' marksmen, yet the bullets kept on whistling. Weiner was 37 and weighed 250 lbs. I, 22 and lithe. Weiner puffed like a steamboat, hurrying behind me. I called out to him: 'Nu, was meinen Sie jetzt?' (Well, what do you think of it now?) His answer was: 'Was soll ich meinen? (What should I think of it?) Sof odom muves.' (Hebrew for 'the end of man is death' or in modern phraseology, 'I guess we're up against it.')

"In spite of the whistling of the bullets, I laughed when he said: 'Machen wir den altern Mann songst broges.' (Look out, or we'll make the old man angry.) We started and came up with Captain Brown and we finished the job as related in the enclosed report."

This graphic description of the famous Black Jack encounter was penned by one of the three Jewish volunteers who rallied to John Brown's colors when he, inflammed with the burning hatred of slavery, embarked on his "divine mission" to prevent that institution from becoming permanently established and rooted in the new territory of Kansas. That August Bondi, the author of this dramatic and exciting narrative, was indeed a fit companion in spirit and temperament to the unique visionary and zealot whose exploits ignited the first sparks of the great civil conflagration that was destined to consume nearly a million of lives and billions of money, is evident from a brief and cursory glance at his early career.

Born in Vienna in 1833, Bondi received an academic and scientific education. At the age of 15, he was suddenly swept into the maelstrom of the revolutionary currents that were engulfing the European continent and threatening the status quo. For the year 1848 marked an high-water stage in the rising tide of political unrest and social struggle and few youths were content to sit on the sidelines of the times. Bondi too joined the Vienna Academic Legion, a student group of 9,000 strong which assisted Kossuth in fomenting the upheavals in the German-Austrian States. His first appearance in the ranks of liberty's staunch champions was, however, brought to an abrupt close, when his parents emigrated to the United States in September of that year and settled in St. Louis.

Trio Joins John Brown

But the youthful adventurer was eager to answer the call of any cause that challenged his love of freedom. As a result, his restless spirit led him to enlist in an 1850 expedition bent upon liberating Cuba. When this proved to be of no avail, he returned, after a brief sojourn in Texas, to St. Louis. There he clerked for Jacob Benjamin and tied the first knots of a friendship that was to mold their common future for many years. For along with Theodore Weiner, they were soon to comprise the Jewish triumvirate that threw in its lot with that of John Brown during the hectic and tense struggle of 1854-57 which was to seal the fate of Kansas.

It was during the winter of 1855 that these three men were suddenly confronted with the slavery issue. Weiner and Benjamin had arrived to establish a trading post in the vicinity of Osawatomie. They soon experienced all the hardships of pioneering life, as was vividly depicted by their companion, Bondi, who was located on a nearby claim but often lent a helping neighborly hand. "We were five men," he wrote. "I continued as cook, Benjamin to keep the breaking plow going and the hired man, Klein and Fox to start and keep at haying, to mow, rake and put up large cocks, and whenever about twenty were ready to stack, Benjamin to haul with the team and the big wagon, and so we did. Every man did valiantly perform his share of the work assigned to him."

As free soilers, however, they were soon menaced by their neighbors who were wont to furnish "places of rendezvous and active aid" to the armed southern bands that crossed the border with the intention of keeping the Kansas territory, by fair means or foul, within the fold of slavery. They were advised to clear out or suffer the punishment meted out to other like-minded pioneers. Upon investigating the nature of a small settlement of Ohio men about five miles to the northeast, concerning whose friendly spirit they had been informed, they met Frederick Brown, who promised immediate assistance on the part of himself and his three brothers. Thus, in time, Benjamin and Bondi joined the military company which the younger John Brown organized.

Battle for Kansas

The period of lawlessness in Kansas was then reaching a high pitch of excitement and tension. For with the nullification of the Missouri Compromise through the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which provided that the people of the territories mentioned therein should determine for themselves whether they would be slave or free, a battleground between the North and South at once came into being. Both sections of the country now embarked upon a determined campaign and waged a serious battle over hegemony and influence in the region and bent all efforts toward tipping the scales in favor or against the institution of slavery. The South poured armed bands into Kansas to forestall the northern immigration but could not cope with the infiltration of the latter into the beautiful and fertile country.

On March 30, 1855, the first election for a territorial legislature was, according to Rhodes, the historian, captured by an "unkempt, sun-dried, blatant, picturesque mob of 500 Missourians, with guns upon their shoulders, revolvers stuffing their belts, Bowie knives protruding from their boottops and generous rations of whiskey in their wagons." The new and fraudulent governing body that was consequently elected immediately drew up a pro-slavery code of laws, though the majority of the population was opposed to the institution.

Armed bands and "Border Ruffians" continued to intimidate all free state inhabitants and to commit many outrages. Appeals for help and outside intervention were answered with the

The writer is indebted for his information to Leon Huhner's paper which appeared in the Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, Volume 23, pp. 55-78.

advice to resort to the courts, although in the words of Emerson, "When the poor, plundered farmer goes to the court, he finds the ringleader who has robbed him, dismounting from his own horse, and unbuckling his knife, to sit as his judge."

It was at this juncture of events that John Brown, a descendant of New England Abolitionists who regarded himself as the "instrument of God to strike a blow against the hideous institution" of slavery, arrived to join his children at Osawatomie. He was soon heralded as a forceful and courageous leader who would provide protection to the overawed free state settlers. Before long the occasion arose which catapulted him into national prominence and wove the first threads of the legend that he ultimately became in the American tradition.

The Pottawatomie Band

When news reached him of the impending assault upon the free state town of Lawrence on the part of a "swearing, whiskey-drinking, ruffianly horde," he summoned a company of men to hasten to its relief. Bondi promptly volunteered, while Weiner furnished as a gift all the provisions needed by the two rifle companies of sixty-five men. This act of the latter aroused the vengeful mood of the pro-slavery faction, which consequently attacked Weiner's store and burned all its valuable contents. He, however, was not alone in his suffering, for the families of all those who had responded to the appeal of Lawrence were driven off their property.

On the route, the defenders suddenly learned that Lawrence had already been sacked and that "the pro-slavery men had gone from house to house of free state men, and threatened that shortly the Missourians would be there and make a clean sweep of them, and at many places, where the men were absent, grossly insulted their wives and daughters."

John Brown immediately asked for volunteers to return to the Pottawatomie and a party of seven, which included Weiner, soon perpetrated what became known as the famous massacre. This has become an historical bone of contention, regarded by some as a lynching party open to condemnation and sharp rebuke and defended by others as a necessary measure. For it did result in pacifying the country and loosening the stranglehold of the "Border Ruffians."

Battle of Black Jack

Weiner and Bondi likewise participated in the famous battle of Black Jack. This was precipitated by the threat which faced the settlers of Prairie City at the hands of Captain Pate and his company of ruffians. Having resolved to aid any free state family or community in danger, though he lacked the requisite arms and equipment, John Brown hastened to fulfill his obligations. While he and his men were camping in anticipation of their coming fray, they were visited by Redpath, the Kansas correspondent of the New York Tribune, who has authored an eloquent tribute to this community of zealots. "In this camp", he wrote, "no manner of profane language was permitted, no man of immoral character was allowed to stay except as a prisoner of war. It was at this time that the old man said to me: 'I would rather have the small-pox, yellow fever and cholera all together in my camp, than a man without principles . . . I remained in the camp about an hour. Never before had I met such a band of men. They are not earnest, but earnestness incarnate." Bondi, in his account, also mentions this visit, stating that Redpath encouraged them until "they felt as if they were the extreme outpost of the free North in Kansas."

The outcome of this encounter led to the capitulation of Pate, the capture of ammunition and the recovery of much of the property that had been taken by force from the settlers. It was during this engagement that the very picturesque episode which opens this article took place.

Though we have already presented ample evidence of the record of service which the three Jewish pioneers established in behalf of the Abolitionist movement, it is well to substantiate this fact with some documentation. In a letter which John Brown wrote in August 1856, he gives the "names of sufferers and persons who have made sacrifices in endeavoring to maintain and advance the Free State Cause in Kansas within my personal knowledge." Nine groups are then listed, the first of which is: "Two German refugees (thoroughly Free State), robbed at Pottawatomie, named Benjamin and Bondy (or Bundy) one has served under me as a volunteer; namely Bondy, Benjamin was a prisoner for some time. Suffered by men under Coffee & Pate."

Fighters for Liberty

In August, 1856, Brown organized a military company known as the Kansas regulars. Those who enlisted subscribed to the following covenant:

"We, whose names are found on these and the next following pages, do hereby enlist ourselves to serve in the Free State Cause under John Brown as Commander, during the full period of time affixed to our names respectively, and we severally pledge our word and our sacred honor that during the time for which he has enlisted we will faithfully and punctually perform our duty —as a regular volunteer force for the maintenance of the rights and liberties of the Free State citizens of Kansas."

Among the thirty five names, with dates of enlistment are the following: "August 24, J. Benjamin, August 25, August Bondie." There is also available a book in Brown's handwriting giving a list of twenty seven names, under the heading: "Volunteers in the fight of Black Jack or Palmyra, June 2, '56." Among these also are Theodore Weiner and August Bondi.

No matter what judgment posterity has passed on the methods which John Brown followed in pursuit of his aims, it has never impugned his motives nor questioned the fact that he and his men were actuated by a sincere desire to abolish slavery. Yet though his career has left such a deep impression on the course of our history, "there were never at any time associated with him more than about a score of followers. It is therefore most interesting to find that three of this small group were Jewish pioneers."

No other evaluation of John Brown's magnetism and ability to instil his men with the fire of his spirit and zeal of a common cause is more fit to conclude this article than Bondi's account of the night before Black Jack, when all the men were faint and hungry:

"We were united as a band of brothers by the love and affection towards the man who, with tender words and wise counsel, in the depths of the wilderness of Ottawa Creek, prepared a handful of young men for the work of laying the foundations of a free commonwealth. He constantly preached anti-slavery. He expressed himself to us that we should never allow ourselves to be tempted by any consideration, to acknowledge laws and institutions to exist as of right, if our conscience and reason condemned them."

Reverie by the Lake

Here by this lake would I sit forever
With you and be content,
Watching the waters in ceaseless endeavor
Hammer unyielding shores.
Even as I in ceaseless endeavor
Hammer the thrice-barred doors
Of your heart—
Hammer, and never relent.

—Henry Blakeley

THE CRISIS
An Ideal Xmas Present
$1.50 a Year

Autobiography of Dr. DuBois

By Charles Edward Russell

Dusk of Dawn: an Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept. By W. E. Burghardt DuBois. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Co. 334 pages. $3.00

ONE comes from the reading of this extraordinary book with a new and overpowering sense of the loss society precipitates upon itself by its dull addiction to its footless prejudices. Here is obviously one of the choice minds of these times, powerful, alert, perceptive, capacious, reasoning, reinforced with educational and cultural advantages far beyond the average university; a mind fortified with travel, experience, ripe observation, the mind of a thinker and creator, the mind of an original and indomitable genius, familiar with spacious and practical concepts. Yet through the life of the possessor of this rare equipment, despite restless activity and resolute purpose, he has been frustrated at every turn. He makes no complaint, he has not a trace of self pity, but it is most evident that at every turn his frustration has been to the immense loss of the society that has doomed him to sequestration. He might have served his country and age as few other men have served them, and he has been always frustrated.

Not by any fault or lack in him, only because his complexion happens to be somewhat darker than that of the majority of his contemporaries. That, and nothing else.

To the impartial, it would seem equally just to make a pariah or a helot of every man that has blue eyes or black hair.

Unanswerable Indictment

It is a great book, especially great in its searching, inescapable, unanswerable indictment of the fantastic but deadly delusion of race and racial inferiority, an indictment both direct and implied. For besides the plain terms in which Dr. DuBois frames the monstrous injustice done to him and his twelve million other Americans of a dark complexion, consider the manner of the framing. Consider the polish, the beauty of the diction, the easy command over the resources of the language, the evidence of research, the admirable restraint. Few men that wield the pen, loosed upon such a subject and with such an impetus to resentment, could have equalled this book in reasoned and unemotional eloquence, in power of description and in aptness of expression. And yet the man that wrote it must go through life under a daily reminder that he is part of the door mat of an arrogant majority; he must daily endure insults that must seem to a mind so sensitive to be insufferable.

"Dusk of Dawn" is, as the author frankly says, more an autobiography of his so-called race than of himself. Yet it relates with a notable skill of narration, his boyhood, his struggles to sound to the depths all available educational facilities here and abroad, his entertaining experiences on his wide travels, and always his protest against injustice. The personal recital is woven around a lucent, uncompromising, vivid, poignant exposition of the situation of dark-tinted people in America.

It is of an unflinching candor, that review. It does not conceal the unpleasant and often deleterious effects of a hopeless submersion upon individuals among its victims, even upon victim groups. But it makes clear the pivotal point that these effects, sometimes appearing in the blind resentment of lawless undiscipline, are nothing inherent, nothing native, but the fruits of a social wrong. And remembering the dimensions of that wrong, one marvels that the by-products are not worse.

His Remedy: A Negro Nation

As to remedies for the obtuse barbarism from which he has endured so much, not all of Dr. DuBois' readers, even among the most sympathetic, will be likely to agree with him. Apparently, he has been driven—by the bleak outlook into a kind of fatalistic acceptance of basic conditions as unchangeable—into a philosophy of despair. What he proposes now, therefore, is that plan he urged so ably five years ago, of a Negro nation within the nation. Not a political Negro nation, but economic. In a word, Negro consumption of Negro production. Negroes exclusively to supply an exclusive Negro demand, the supply to be competent to meet all Negro needs. In effect, although he does not say so, Negro boycott of all other supply.

This, in all sincerity, Dr. DuBois believes to be practical and efficacious. It may be, and none among us that have studied the major problem of our times would lightly put aside any remedy proposed by one that has given to it so much of thought and insight. But the plan to my mind is flawed with defects that seem fatal. It is based upon recognition of the Negro as a Negro. I must think that what is needed is his recognition as a Man. And even if Dr. DuBois could organize his Negro Co-operative Commonwealth within the national structure, how would that give to society the benefit of minds like his, minds of unusual gifts and potencies, as common among the dark as among the light complexioned people? And beyond even this, the plan recognizes as true something that is preposterously false. It recognizes as true the cave-man's superstition about races, and there are no races. Its participants are to be persons denominated as Negroes, and what is a Negro?

Challenge to Complacency

But all this detracts nothing from the great and enduring worth of this notable addition to our literature on our national sin. It is the most persistent, the most imperative challenge to the national complacency that has yet appeared. Steadily it thrusts into our faces one question that wavers not.

By what right do we condemn the wrongs perpetrated upon minorities abroad when we equal or surpass them all here at home?

What answer, comfortable and indifferent majority? What answer?

Next Month

75 Years of Progress

An article on the recent American Negro Exposition held in Chicago last summer

BRIGADIER GENERAL B. O. DAVIS, U. S. A.

ON October 25, 1940, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis who had been in command of the 369th New York National Guard (later designated as the 369th coast artillery, anti-aircraft) was promoted to be Brigadier General by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This is the first time in the history of the country that a Negro officer has held rank higher than Colonel. The late Colonel Charles Young and Colonel Davis were the only two men to reach that rank.

Brigadier General Davis has been in command of the 369th since July 27, 1938.

Brigadier General Davis was born in Washington, D. C., and attended the public schools of that city. He entered the Army during the Spanish American war. The Army Registry, January 1, 1938, shows his service in the Army as follows:

1st Lieutenant, 8th U. S. Volunteer Infantry, July 13, 1898. Mustered out, March 6, 1899. Private, Corporal Troop "I" and Squadron Sergeant Major 9th Cavalry June 14, 1899 to May 18, 1901. Second Lieutenant of Cavalry February 2, 1901. Accepted May 19, 1901. First Lieutenant March 30, 1905; Captain December 24, 1915. Major (Temporary) August 5, 1917. Lieutenant Colonel National Army, May 11, 1918. Honorably discharged as Lieutenant Colonel National Army October 14, 1919. Lieutenant Colonel Cavalry Regular Army July 1, 1920. Colonel February 18, 1930.

(*Continued on page* 388)

"Behold I Stand . . ."

By Violet C. Haywood

While opening its great heart to every cry of anguished humanity from across the seas, America continues to shut its eyes to the needs at home

DECIDING that the late afternoon sun gave enough light, Mrs. Simms gazed with satisfaction at the image of herself in the big mirror. Inspecting her straight, well-shaped nose closely, she saw the need for a bit more powder. A few final pats and pulls here and there and she was ready. She glanced at her watch. Um—m, time enough to make the meeting with a few minutes to spare. She walked lightly from the room, a well-groomed, graceful creature with finespun, bright hair and surprisingly dark blue eyes. A typical Nordic beauty she was.

As she walked toward the kitchen she fished in her expensive bag for her car keys.

"Lillian," she said to her small wrinkled, colored cook, "I shall dine out today, so don't bother to fix anything. Mr. Simms won't be in either."

She had already started away when Lillian's "Yessum" came. Indeed she scarcely heard the reply. Her mind was so busy with the speech she was going to make in a few minutes before the Women's Club. She had composed this speech with very little difficulty because she felt so strongly on the subject. Why certain parts of it made tears come to her own eyes.

"It is our Christian duty," in her mind she went over the closing sentences 'to open our arms to these poor homeless innocents of war-torn Europe. Children are the flowers in this great world. We must not let them know terror and pain, and hunger. We *must* not sit idly by, letting it be as nothing to us. They stand, even as the Master, at our door and knock. In the name of humanity we must hear and open to them.'

"Good, very good," she thought happily as she unlocked the car. She was about to slide under the steering wheel when a piercing scream halted her. Lillian had heard, too, and was running toward the alley in back of the house. Mrs. Simms ran after her.

When she got there Lillian had off one of her surprisingly large shoes, and was beating away at a big dog. Mrs. Simms saw that the dog was holding fast to a ragged little object. It was a boy.

"Leggo, *leggo,* I tell you!" Lillian hammered away with all the strength of her frail body.

"What—what *is* it?" Mrs. Simms was plainly distressed.

Finally a hard blow on the head brought a yelp of pain from the dog. He bounded away swiftly and was soon out of sight.

"You hurt, honey?" Lillian helped the boy to rise.

"Naw!!" he flashed a watery smile at her. "I guess he jess skait me." He gathered his tattered rags about him, lapping the over-large trousers in front with a big safety pin. His hands trembled, in spite of his brave words, and his black little face was still ashen.

"What was you doin' when he got after you, boy? What's your name, anyway?" asked Lillian.

"Tenny" the boy answered the latter part of the question. When he said no more Mrs. Simms repeated Lillian's question.

"What were you doing, Tenny, when the dog got after you?"

Tenny hung his head and replied only by scuffing his toe back and forth on the cement.

"Can't you talk, boy, when folks asts you a question?" Lillian was not famed for her patience. She seized Tenny by the arm and shook him slightly, more in impatience than in anger.

"I— I was gittin' sumpin' t'eat." Tenny's answer was so low as to be almost indistinguishable. His face was sullen.

"Eatin'? Eatin' what?" Mrs. Simms and Lillian asked the same question, only Mrs. Simms said "eating."

Tenny pointed a grimy finger. They looked where he pointed, then gazed at each other in horror.

"You—you were eating—out of—*that?*"

"Yes." There was defiance in Tenny's voice now.

"But that's—why that's—*garbage!*" Mrs. Simms seemed scarcely able to bring herself to say the word.

"It had some good in it. It always do." Tenny looked at her, daring her to deny this. They stood looking at one another; Mrs. Simms, as if at the rarest creature her eyes had ever beheld, Tenny, stubbornly determined not to drop his eyes first. Neither heard Lillian's breathed exclamation.

"My Gawd."

"I wasn't hurtin' nuthin or nobody. Jess trying to git sumpin' t'eat."

"But why don't you go home and eat? Why your mother should be ashamed to—"

"Don't you talk about my ma!"

"I wasn't talking about her child. I just wondered why she'd let you *do* like this."

"She's . . . dead."

"Oh!—and your father?"

She had her answer by the swift pain in those dark eyes.

"But there must be agencies—*something, someone*—"

"I ain't going to no damn orphanage." He spat out the words with such intensity that Mrs. Simms almost jumped.

"But have you no home? No one? Where do you stay nights?"

Tenny's eyes became crafty.

"Oh—places," he replied easily.

Mrs. Simms heard the bells of the tower chime out the hour. She glanced at her watch with a start. Heavens, the meeting! She looked at the thin, ragged creature before her. Should she? But he was too dirty—dirtier than she had ever seen anyone. Too dirty to go in her kitchen.

"Here, boy. Here's a quarter. Lillian, I—you—" she floundered hopelessly. Then straightening her shoulders she said firmly, "I've got to go to a meeting!" Turning she hastily walked away, in a hurried effort to escape the foolish turmoil in her breast.

She got into her beautiful car, pressing the gas so hard that she literally leaped away. Into her mind, unbidden came the words of the speech, which no longer seemed so good to her.

'They stand, even as our dear Savior, at our doors and knock. In the name of humanity, we must open to them.'

Caution

America is a young
And restless nation;
Young like a school girl,
Restless like a year-old colt—
Those who guide her
Must guide her cautiously—
As if guiding a child.

—John Henrik Clarke

Jim Crow in the Army Camps

By A Negro Enlisted Man

I AM a newly enlisted soldier, stationed in the Northwest. I volunteered, as I knew I would eventually be forced into the Army by the draft, and I wanted a better chance than the draftee would have.

But, after being in the Army a short while, my militarily-inclined enthusiasm turned to a feeling of disgruntled surprise and sorrow. Why? I'll tell you why!

I had envisioned the Army as being a vast military machine, working with utmost precision. Instead I found it to be, for the Negro, a place impregnated with suppression and racial prejudice.

Theatre Segregation

We have a War department theatre which shows the latest pictures. It is the size of a medium-class city theatre. It is for the military personnel and their families.

We have a Negro regiment stationed here, composed of approximately 300 men. And in the theatre, size aforementioned, there is a row of seats, seating not more than fifteen men, which is set aside for the Negro soldiers.

I ask you, is that the proper spirit for an army training to fight for democracy?

Whenever a Negro soldier sits in any seat other than the row set aside for Negroes, as I and many others have done upon their first visit to the theatre, he is rudely and loudly asked to move to the *Reserved For Colored* section. This practice arouses hatred where there would be none if we were treated as we should be treated.

No Trades Taught

Also in the library and the Post Exchange, and on the Post in general, the Negro is treated as if he isn't wanted. Many of the young men enlisted in the U. S. Army are thoroughly disgusted because of segregation. Many were faithfully promised, before enlisting, that they would have an opportunity to learn a trade, or continue with their previous studies. As yet there are no educational facilities for the Negro. Young men have enlisted to do their patriotic duty to America, and to learn some useful trade. The men have done their part. The question is: Will Uncle Sam do his Part?

Last, but far from least, is the way a Negro soldier is treated on the Army bus when he goes to town. It is far from any idea I ever had of Army life! When the Negro regiment was first organized here (it has only been stationed here a little more than a year) the Negro soldiers were asked to sit in the back of the bus, but since more and more have begun to ride the bus, they have begun to move forward and sit any place they please. Yet hardly a week passes without an altercation resulting from the word so many of the white race deem necessary to label us by.

Why is it we Negro soldiers who are as much a part of Uncle Sam's great military machine as any cannot be treated with equality and the respect due us? The same respect which white soldiers expect and demand from us?

This is the age of science, of steel—of speed and modernization. It is no time to let petty indifferences stand in the way of a nation in great need of defense, on the brink of a great crisis! There is great need for a drastic change in this man's Army! How can we be trained to protect America, which is called a *free* nation, when all around us rears the ugly head of segregation?

Underwood

Insulted in France, just as their 1940 brothers are today, the old 15th New York (now 369th), return as heroes from the first World War.

First Martyr to American Independence

By William Harrison

THE "long train of abuses and usurpations" for which the Declaration of Independence so eloquently indicts George III was set in motion by the so-called Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. Compromise in the struggle of the North American colonies to achieve national independence might conceivably have been possible before that day when soldiery of His Majesty's 29th Regiment of Foot fired upon the Boston populace, but the massacre was an act which closed the door to peaceable adjustment of the difficulties between Great Britain and the colonies. Contemporaries immediately grasped its significance, as is evidenced by the fact that the day was celebrated as a national holiday until 1783, when it was supplanted by July 4, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Nothing demonstrates so clearly the rôle which the Negro people have played in the history of the United States, in building, preserving, and extending democracy, than the circumstance that the first martyr to fall on that occasion was a Negro, Crispus Attucks.

About Crispus Attuck's life previous to the event which won for him a secure place in the annals of the Republic not a great deal has been disclosed by even the most indefatigable research. There has been even some dispute concerning his racial identity, since it has been supposed that he was of Indian ancestry, without Negro admixture, for his surname was derived from a word in the language of the Natick tribe. However, the evidence which has come down from contemporaries points decisively to the conclusion that he was a mulatto, probably with white, Indian, and Negro blood. He is so described in one of the earliest histories of the American war of independence, an Italian work entitled *Storia della guerra dell' independenza degli Stati Uniti d'America* (1809), by Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo Botta (1766-1837). An English translation of this work, by George Alexander Otis, was published at Philadelphia in 1820-21, and it is from this book that is taken the following paragraph describing the part which Attucks played in the events of March 5, 1770:

". . . at length the mulatto and twelve of his companions, pressing forward, environed the soldiers, and striking their muskets with their clubs, cried to the multitude: *'Be not afraid, they dare not fire; why do you not kill them, why not crush them at once?'* The mulatto lifted his arm against Captain Preston, and having turned one of the muskets, he seized the bayonet with his left hand, as if he intended to execute his threat. At this moment, confused cries were heard, *'The wretches dare not fire!'* Firing succeeds: Attucks is slain."

Martyred also on that Monday evening were Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Patrick Carr, and Samuel Maverick, ancestor of the present Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, former Congressman Maury Maverick. All the victims were eventually buried in the same grave, though Carr, it should be noted, did not die of his wounds until March 14 and was not interred until March 17. The place of burial was the Granary burying-ground, on what is now lower Tremont Street.

March 5, the day Crispus Attucks was killed by the Redcoats in Boston, was celebrated as a national holiday until July 4 was established by the signing of the Declaration of Independence

The Attucks Monument in Boston

Who Was Crispus Attucks?

In his *History of Framingham, Massachusetts* (1887), J. H. Temple conjectures that "probably John Attuck, who was executed with Capt. Tom, [for complicity in an Indian uprising in 1696] was an ancestor of Crispus Attucks, of Revolutionary fame." At the time when Temple's book was published, the old cellar-hole where the Attucks family lived was still visible. Temple states that Crispus was born near the Framingham town line, "a short distance to the eastward of the State Arsenal." The town in which he was born, Framingham, is near the Chochituate Lake and his birthplace is said to have been not far from the Natick town-line.

It is generally supposed, even if one does not accept Temple's conjecture, that Attucks had Indian ancestry. Probably his ancestors were members of the Natick tribe who had inter-married with Negroes.

At the time of his death Attucks was about 47 years old (*History of the Boston Massacre*, by Frederic Kidder, Albany, N. Y., 1870), according to an advertisement which appeared in the *Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal* for October 2, 1750:

"Ran away from his master *William Brown of Framingham* on the 30th of Sept. last a Mulatto Fellow about 27 years af age, named *Crispus* 6 feet and 2 inches high, short curl'd hair, his knees nearer together than common; and had on a light-colour'd Beaver skin coat, plain brown fustian jacket or brown all wool one, new Buckskin Breeches, blue yarn stockings and a checked woolen shirt. Whoever shall take up said Runaway, and convey him to his aforesaid Master shall have *ten pounds* old tenor Reward, and all necessary charges paid. And all Masters of Vessels and Others are hereby cautioned against concealing or carrying off said Servant on Penalty of the Law."

Who Killed Crispus Attucks?

A document which reads like an exciting mystery novel is *The Trial of the British Soldiers of the 29th Regiment of Foot for the Murder of Crispus Attucks, Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James*

(*Continued on page* 397)

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

The Country's Defense

***Guardian*, Boston, Mass.**

BY now the election is forgotten—or ought to be. There seems no reason to delay intensifying both the demand for an equitable share of employment in the industries which receive defense contracts and also the demand for fair and impartial enrollment in the nation's armed forces. That there is wide-spread resentment against racial discrimination in the Army and Navy and in the industrial plants filling armament orders was made clear at the huge mass meeting in Ebenezer church. The gathering was one of the largest and most stirring remonstrance demonstrations seen here in recent years. Enthusiasm flamed. Resolutions were unanimously adopted and sent to the President, members of the Cabinet, Congressmen and Senators. The victims of race prejudice at last have turned about in dead earnest. Existing protective organizations like the N.A.A.C.P., the Equal Right League, the Congress of Equal Opportunities, should continue to lead; the rank and file are ready for action. And that means loyal action, vigorous action without bitterness.

The times favor a winning fight for equality. Democracy—what little of it remains—is on the defensive and perhaps tomorrow it may be on the run. Every ounce of loyalty and skill and energy will be needed to cover democracy's retreat and to make a successful stand against totalitarian might. It becomes increasingly clear then, that national self-interest, if not genuine fair-play, must eventually enlist itself on the side of equal justice for all.

If the American way of life endures all races and creeds will be enabled to enjoy it more abundantly. A plain lesson from the present European debacle is that, in order for democracy to survive, democracy must be cultivated realistically and adopted as a universal, every-day practice. And if democracy perish, the colored race will be numbered among the greatest sufferers. The humiliation of chattel slavery will be as nothing compared with the cruelty of banishment from accustomed liberty albeit imperfect. In sheer self-defense, in addition to motives of patriotism and loyalty, it is imperative that we Colored Americans strive for greater participation in every measure undertaken for the country's defense. We build and strengthen democracy for all in ever expanding proportion as we obtain for ourselves equality to work for a living and the right to share in common with others in the government's civil and military service.

The benefits of our struggle will fall alike upon the oppressed and the oppressor, upon the wicked and the holy, upon the most benighted and anti-American sinner in Georgia or Alabama as upon the more civilized and forward-looking inhabitants of the northern and western states. It is comforting to believe that the triumph of our cause will illumine what in the adversary is dark and "what is low raise and support." For civilization develops by a lateral growth, spreading from the more advanced communities to the laggard. On the other hand, our own self-interest appears tremendous. Over and over again let it be said until the truth is unmistakable to every Colored American: We Save Ourselves, We Preserve the Right to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" for Ourselves and Our Posterity, when We Save Democracy here in America!

The case against lynching must go on. Few people are put to death by the mob any more, but the mob spirit is a poison that still pervades many communities. Down in Tennessee Negroes want to vote. They have that right. That is the plain letter of the law. But the mob killed one and drove out others. Negroes in Tennessee have their warning! They will not vote in November! The mob, not the law, is supreme.

What if the federal authorities say "We will stand by you Negroes!" They do nothing about the man who was killed, and another killed will also be another about whom nothing is done. An anti-lynch law is notice in advance that vengeance is the law's! . . . Kansas City, Mo., *Call*

The triennial general convention of the Episcopal church voted down the proposition to segregate the Negro membership of the Episcopal church into four separate dioceses under a Negro Bishop. The vote stood 54 to 37 according to reports from the general convention. . . .

Segregation has never meant equal privileges and equal rights to the minority groups and in God's church christian people should set the pace for all others to follow. . . .Columbia, S. C., *Palmetto Leader*

Negro bishops and other church leaders ought not to stoop so low as to become campaign assistants at the headquarters of political parties. Rev. L. K. Williams would be alive, today, but for his political activity of the kind referred to. . . . Cleveland, Ohio, *Gazette*

For sometime now General Hugh Johnson, known as "Old Iron Pants," has been snorting all over the country with a fake bravado which excites the admiration of yokels. The old gashouse hero, however, tore his "iron pants" last Monday in his syndicated column when he tried to be-little the appointment of Col. Benjamin Davis to a Brigadier General by President Roosevelt. He goes to great trouble to prove in his specious way that Col. Davis did not deserve the promotion, that white officers will not work under him and that Negro soldiers do not like officers of their own race. . . .

It is unfortunate that "Old Iron Pants" had to pick on the first Negro ever named as a general in the United States Army in the history of the country. We are proud of Brigadier General Davis and the only thing we ask of President Roosevelt is to keep up the good work. . . . Detroit, Mich., *Chronicle*

The assignment of several colored patrolmen to man "red cars" (squad cars) in the Police Bureau of the Department of Public Safety is a tribute to the willingness of Mayor Lamberton and of Superintendent of Police Malone to take steps to rectify obvious inequalities within the Bureau. . . . Philadelphia, Pa., *Tribune*

If America would want to defend itself against Nazi domination and totalitarianism it first must rid itself of any similarity of ideas common to those existing in Germany and conquered France. It must make a serious effort to give to all racial and minority groups that vestige of human rights guaranteed to them by the organic law of the land, for it will be inconsistent with good judgment to fight against that which one has already adopted and practices. . . . Chicago, Ill., *Sunday Bee*

When Do We Fly?

(*Continued from page* 378)

quarters think of the intelligence of the Negro people. Furthermore, it has a "hidden" meaning which gives the Department a perfect alibi when such time comes as they will be forced to admit that they do not intend to train Negroes for the Air Corps. The picture is this:

Barred from Real Training

There are only three sources of the highly trained personnel required to take care of the beautiful and expensive pursuits, attack planes, bombers, observation craft, and training ships so vital to American defense: 1) the Air Corps Technical Schools at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill. and Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. 2) the Army-supervised civilian schools—one of which is Curtiss-Wright at Glendale, Cal., on whose application blanks are printed "No Applicants of the Negro Race Will Be Accepted"—in different parts of the country, and 3) the enlisted men of the Air Corps who serve what is equivalent to an apprenticeship with tactical flying units. Darker Americans are barred from the technical schools; they are not barred from a few of the civilian schools, but no provision has been made for their training, which amounts to the same thing; and enlistments are flatly rejected. In fact three recruits in Pittsburgh were practically insulted and laughed at when they asked to be sent to an air base.

We'll have no planes until there are maintenance men to take care of them. And the only real sources of this prerequisite are closed to American citizens because their complexion happens to be tan-tinted. Meanwhile, Nazis are welcomed and get big jobs—until they are caught doing something for the fatherland. The Negro, who has fought and fought well in every war in which America has been involved, shed his life's blood in the making of this great country, must be told that there is "no provision" for him. It's one hell of a state of affairs to exist in the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The Steps to Be Taken

Shall we ever be given a chance to fly for our country? I cannot answer this question as directly as I would like to, but there are very definite indications. When, first of all, several of the many competent instructors of our race are sent to one of the Air Corps Training Centers for what is known as a "familiarization course," the Department's declaration of good intentions toward the Negro flyer will just begin to make sense. Experienced instructors are required to take this course in order to become familiar with Army procedure. By this method alone can civilian instructors be so schooled that their students may be afforded standardized training in the Army way.

When, secondly, provision is made for the entrance of our boys into an Army-supervised commercial school, or into the technical schools of the Air Corps, the Department may truthfully announce that it plans to "provide for the acceleration of such training."

When, thirdly, the applications of enlisted personnel and flying cadets are no longer relegated to the waste basket, but are referred, through the proper military channels, to whom ever the Department shall appoint as Personnel Officer of the Negro aviation unit, or units, they can, in truth, say, "Negro aviation units will be established as soon as trained personnel can be obtained. . . ."

When, fourthly, the Department requests the presence of two or three aviation experts of our race to sit in meeting to discuss the hundred and one details involved in the setting up of a colored flying unit; or, as an alternative, calls into conference two or three of our high-ranking Army officers to actually map organization of such a unit, we will be beginning to get our just representation as taxpayers.

Not until most, or all of these steps are taken in the mentioned manner—or a very similar procedure is followed—will we be well on our way toward winning the fight "on the home front" to help fight to defend our country. And I do believe that we want to do our part, particularly in view of the fact that our potential enemies are who they are.

Brig. Gen. Davis

(*Continued from page* 383)

During the Spanish American War Colonel Davis served as a company officer at Ft. Thomas, Ky. and Camp George H. Thomas, Ga. Upon muster out he enlisted in the 9th Cavalry as a private. A year and a half later he qualified for a commission as 2nd Lieutenant Regular Army by examination at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served with the 2nd Squadron 10th Cavalry in Samar and Panay, Philippine Islands during the Insurrection 1901-02. On his return to the U. S. he was stationed at Old Fort Washaki, Wyoming. He has served as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Wilberforce university, Wilberforce, Ohio, and the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama; as Military Attache to the American Legation, Monrovia, Liberia; and with the Mexican Border Patrol 1912-15. He was present at the capture of Naco, Sonora, by Mexican forces under General Obregon who later became President of the Republic of Mexico.

During the World War he was with the 9th Cavalry at Camp Stotsenberg, Pampanga, where he served as a Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel. He returned to the U. S. in 1920. He also served a five year tour as an Instructor, Ohio National Guard. During the period 1930-33, he accompanied six parties of Gold Star Mothers on their pilgrimages to the cemeteries of Europe.

New Print Process

(*Continued from page* 379)

Thrash were on exhibition during the recent National Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the Tindley Temple, Philadelphia, along with the work of seven other Philadelphia WPA artists. The Philadelphia Free Library has on "permanent loan" prints by all three of these artists in the new medium and their works have been shown at Howard and Lincoln universities, Temple university, University of Pennsylvania, Mount Sinai hospital, Rockefeller Center, New York, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City, and at both the San Francisco and New York World's Fairs.

"The Carborundum Print," a 16-page brochure describing the process and giving instructions on the preparation of the ground and method of printing, may be obtained in limited quantities by those who desire detailed technical information through writing to the Federal Works Agency, Work Projects Administration, Division of Professional and Service Projects, Washington, D. C., and asking for "W.P.A. Technical Series Art Circular No. 5."

The Way of Fetters

They tried to keep my restless feet
From off the upward path;
My dauntless zeal made them retreat—
That was the aftermath.
They dug a rugged ditch for me
And into it they fell;
Now, in the setup, it may be
They learned a lesson well.

—William Henry Huff

On the Meaning of Race and Racism

By James W. Ivy

THE theme of this terse little book is the relation of race to racism. Dr. Ruth Benedict, associate professor of anthropology in Columbia university, addresses herself to a statement and interpretation of the scientific facts of race and a refutation of the scientific validity of the claims of the racists. Whether we like it or not, racism today is in the ascendant and none of us can avoid its repercussions and implications, whether Negroes in America, Jews in Germany, or Nisei in California.

While naive popular ideas in regard to race have always prevailed when two peoples have come into contact, it has remained for the supposedly civilized western world to intellectualize these notions and erect them into the ideology of "racism." Members of an old civilization have always despised the newcomer; the members of an in-group have always alternately feared and plundered the out-group; but it has remained for the "civilized" white man to hit upon the happy idea of separating the sheep from the goats by such obvious and superficial traits as skin color, hair texture, head shape, and so on. And the doctrine of evolution had made possible the correlation of these physical traits with cultural evolution.

The popular and semi-scientific race concepts are very simple: You divide mankind into racial groups on the basis of their color; you then establish an evolutionary hierarchy with the white races at the top and the blacks at the bottom; and your argument is indeed plausible because in your correlation of color with culture you find that your group, "the elect," is in the vanguard of civilization while the darker races without the pale are, by your carefully selected criteria for evaluating racial achievements, hopelessly inferior.

They have not, quite obviously, reached your cultural level and their "inferiority" is perpetual and congenital. From this it is only a step to the dogma that one race, your white race, has carried progress with it throughout history; and being nothing if not logical you derive the soothing corollary that all other groups are congenitally inferior and must, therefore, be destroyed or at least prohibited from contaminating your pure blood stream. If you are white and Nordic and love your race, you go around blandly preaching this nonsense affably unaware of the many logical, historical, social, and biological contradictions in your position. But such contradictions don't feaze you for a moment, because your dogma pays in hard cash and lands and slaves and servants to do your bidding.

Race: Science and Politics. By Ruth Benedict. New York: Modern Age Books, 1940. IX+274 pp. $2.50

White Inferiority Ignored

You do not mention the fact that not all whites have reached a high state of civilization. And when you talk about Nordic *Kultur* in the States, you have in mind a Boston Brahmin or a Wall Street broker, never the spavined, hookworm-exploited poor white social disjecta of the Deep South. Talk about European culture is exclusively confined to the doings of the elite of a few European countries and seldom turns upon the accomplishments of the poor peasants of Eastern and Southern Europe. Attention is seldom turned to these aspects of the momentary superiority of a group because it would destroy the "racial" grounds for their superiority. You contend that their superiority is genetic, racial; when as a matter of sober truth it is historical and social and within the reach of any ethnic group similarly advantaged. In the first century B. C. Cicero could write his friend Atticus that the inhabitants of Britain were so utterly stupid and so incapable of learning that they would never make good slaves. The Romans were a highly civilized folk when the ancestors of the present Germans were savages and mulatto Egypt was highly civilized when the ancestors of the present Europeans were running around the forests in animal skins.

Group Conflicts, not Race

These popular notions which are the basis for racism result from popular ignorance of what the concept race actually means. What is known scientifically about race is ignored because it destroys the real basis of racism and makes untenable the sort of rationalizing which racists use to justify their exploitation of out-groups. Problems of race and color are in the final analysis not problems of race at all but problems of conflict, class and group conflicts. Because of the visibility of the darker races, and their cultural differences from what is supposed to be a white norm, it is very easy to cloak imperialism and exploitation in the guise of "race." The Nazis persecute the Jews because they want Jewish property and wealth; Southerners evolved theories of Negro inferiority because they profited from slave labor; and the "white man's burden" has its genesis in English penetration and exploitation of Asia and Africa.

Handmaiden of Exploitation

Racism did not begin to proliferate until Europe began its expansion into what was regarded as the backward regions of the world. And the complete intellectualizing of these conflicts between Europe and the darker world is a matter of the last fifty or more years. Just so long as Europe continues to exploit the darker world just so long will racism exist. Education is futile against racism with the present set-up of the world where a handful of whites can dominate and manipulate the darker peoples for their own advantage. When leaders of "Nordic" civilizations talk about preserving "democracy" they do not envisage a real democracy which will give equality to all peoples regardless of race or color. They are thinking about their own hides. They have not, in the first place, even extended their vaunted "democracy" to the vast masses of their own people. And their hysterical prattle about Hitler's anti-Semitism is mere hypocrisy! Sincere attacks on racism would have to begin at home. Viewed in perspective neither racism nor present German anti-Semitism is a pathological condition, but one easily explained through recourse to social and historical data.

Gives Negro Credit

I have commented upon the second section of Dr. Benedict's book first because of her trenchant analysis and sweeping refutation of the scientific claims of the racists. Every Negro should read this section of her book—and every American white too. The first section of the book states what is known scientifically about race and presents a concise analysis of the popular confusions on race: the confusion of race and

(*Continued on page* 398)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Supreme Court Upsets Chicago Covenant Case

In a unanimous opinion rendered November 12, the United States supreme court, in a decision based upon legal technicalities, upset a residential covenant in Chicago which had operated to bar Negro residents from a certain area.

The opinion, read by Mr. Justice Stone, does not go into the question of the constitutionality of restrictive residential covenants, but, in effect, it will open up the particular Chicago area affected.

Plaintiffs in the case were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hansberry. Attorneys on the national and Chicago branch legal staffs of the N.A.A.C.P. who handled the case and argued before the high court are: Earl B. Dickerson; Lauren B. Moore; Truman Gibson; Irvin Mollison, and C. Francis Stradford.

This is the 17th victory of N.A.A.C.P. attorneys before the U. S. supreme court.

Executive Order Bans Civil Service Jim Crow

By executive order of President Roosevelt November 13, the federal civil service rules were amended to include the prohibition of discrimination on account of race. The language of the amendment is as follows (in section 2 of rule 1):

"No discrimination shall be exercised, threatened, or promised by any person in the executive civil service against or in favor of any applicant, eligible, or employe in the classified service because of *race,* or for political or religious opinions or affiliations, except as may be authorized or required by law."

This prohibition on race discrimination has been requested over a period of years by many Negro organizations. It has been a section of the resolutions of the N.A.A.C.P. annual conferences for many years.

In effect, the amended rule means that eligibles in the federal civil service who feel that they have been discriminated against because of race may demand a hearing and proof, since such discrimination is now officially banned. Heretofore, discrimination on account of religious or political beliefs and affiliations was banned. Now race is added.

F. D. R. Regrets That Army Policy Was "Misinterpreted"

The White House has expressed its regret that the statement of Army policy on Negroes, announced by it October 9, has been "misinterpreted."

This was the substance of a letter from President Roosevelt to Walter White; A. Philip Randolph, president, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and T. Arnold Hill. These men conferred with the President September 27 and The White House issued a statement of policy on October 9.

In his letter, dated October 25, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"I regret that your own position, as well as the attitude of both The White House and the War Department, has been misunderstood."

This sentence undoubtedly refers to the fact that some newspapers interpreted the October 9 statement of segregation as having been approved by the three colored conferees. The full text of the letter:

"I regret that there has been so much misinterpretation of the statement of War Department policy issued from The White House on October ninth. I regret that your own position, as well as the attitude of both The White House and the War Department, has been misunderstood.

"The plan, as I understand it, on which we are all agreed, is that Negroes will be put into all branches of the service, combatant as well as supply. Arrangements are now being made to give, without delay, training in aviation to Negroes. Negro reserve officers will be called to active service and given appropriate commands. Negroes will be given the same opportunity to qualify for officers' commissions as will be given to others.

"These measures represent a very substantial advance over what has been the practice in past years. You may rest assured that further developments of policy will be forthcoming to insure that Negroes are given fair treatment on a non-discriminatory basis.

"The Secretary of War has, with my approval, appointed Judge William H. Hastie as Civilian Aide to the Secretary, and I have also asked Dr. Clarence Dykstra, the Director of Selective Service, to call to active duty Major Campbell Johnson, both of whom will be actively concerned with these further developments of policy."

N.A.A.C.P. Aids in Defense of Sharecropper

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is cooperating with the Workers' Defense League in the defense of Odell Waller, 23-year-old Virginia sharecropper, who is scheduled to die in the electric chair December 27.

Waller was condemned to death by an all-white jury in Chatham, Virginia, last month when he was found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting of Oscar Davis, his white employer. David L. Clendenin, national secretary of the Workers' Defense League, announced this week that the death verdict will be appealed. "The Appeal," he said, "will be based on evidence of prejudice in the conduct of the trial and selection of the jury."

Clendenin pointed out that the Virginia poll tax system "bars Negroes and poor farmers from jury service as effectively as from the right to vote."

"Members of the jury," he said, "included ten landlords, a carpenter and a business man."

The dispute between Waller and his employer, which led up to the shooting, had its beginning last summer when the white man refused to pay his tenant for his share of work done on a tobacco crop which had been subsequently plowed under by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Waller abandoned the claim early in the summer and went to Baltimore, Md., to work.

He returned from Baltimore in July to find that Davis had evicted his wife and 65-year-old mother, and was withholding the family's share of the wheat crop they had raised. He then decided to visit his employer and demand satisfaction. He later testified that he took along a gun because of Davis' repeated threats. There were no close witnesses to the interview. Waller reports that Davis replied to his request for the wheat with, "I won't give you a damn thing." When the white man reached into his "gun" pocket, Waller shot him.

Virginia Teachers Win $129,000 Salary Increase

Following the refusal of the United States supreme court to review the opinion of the circuit court of appeals which directed the City of Norfolk, Va., to cease salary differentials for teachers based on race or color, the officials of the

City of Norfolk submitted a plan for the payment of $129,000 to Negro teachers over a period of three years beginning September 1, 1940.

This sum will equalize the salaries of Negro and white teachers in Norfolk. The case testing the salary differential was brought by Melvin O. Alston who was represented by attorneys for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Although the decision in the Norfolk case is not automatically binding upon all communities in Virginia, it is expected that most of them will equalize salaries after the question has been presented through petition by committees of colored citizens.

Move for Equal Salaries in Louisville Schools

The board of education of Louisville, Ky., has set December 3 for a hearing on the petition filed by Miss Valla Dudley Abbington, a teacher in the Jackson Junior high school, who seeks to have her salary made equal to that of white junior high school teachers doing similar work.

The campaign to equalize salaries was launched November 6 when Miss Abbington in her petition asked that her salary of $1490 be increased to $1750, which is the salary paid to white teachers of her rank.

The petition was filed with the board by Prentice Thomas, who is representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is handling the case with Thurgood Marshall as special counsel. Miss Abbington, in her petition, is acting not only for herself, but also on behalf of all the Negro teachers and principals in the public schools of Louisville.

The petition shows that she has been a teacher in the Jackson Junior high school for the past ten years, that she received the Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State Normal college in 1928, did graduate work at the University of Michigan and Columbia university in New York.

According to the facts set forth in the petition, the local board of education, which is vested with the power to determine salaries of all the teachers in local public schools, has set up a schedule which calls for payment of salaries to Negro teachers and principals that are fifteen per cent lower than those paid to white teachers and principals, of similar experience and doing the same work, solely on the basis of color.

Protest George Harrison As Secretary of Labor

A persistent rumor that George M. Harrison, grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, A. F. of L., is being seriously considered by President Roosevelt for appointment as Secretary of Labor to replace Madame Perkins, drew a telegraphic protest November 15 from the national office.

The telegram to the President pointed out that Harrison's union has a constitutional ban against Negro members and maintains a jim-crow auxiliary for them, which has no voice in union affairs.

The telegram:

"It is reported in the Pearson and Allen column of November twelve that serious consideration is being given to the appointment of George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, to be Secretary of Labor to succeed Miss Frances Perkins. If reports are true National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wishes to register its protest in behalf of all Negro workers. Mr. Harrison's union has a constitutional ban against Negro members. It maintains a jim-crow auxiliary for Negroes which does not have any voice in union conventions or affairs. Negro Americans and their white fellow workers who are seeking full democracy in the labor movement view with justified alarm possibility of having as Secretary of Labor a man who believes that Negroes are not entitled to full membership in organized unions."

California Audiences Greet Walter White

Large audiences in the Pacific coast branches of the N.A.A.C.P. are greeting the speaking tour of Walter White, national secretary, on his three-weeks' trip. A crowd of 3,000 persons heard Mr. White in his opening meeting Monday night, November 11, in Los Angeles. He spoke, also, in San Diego, Pasadena, Bakersfield, Oakland, Vallejo, Sacramento, Salinas, Pacific Grove, Fresno, Tulare, Stockton, and San Francisco.

Mr. White spoke, also, to a student forum at the University of California, Berkeley, November 15.

He was in Portland, Oregon November 25-26; Tacoma, Washington, November 27; and Seattle, Washington, November 28-29, with one engagement at the University of Washington. He closes his Pacific coast tour with a speech in Spokane December 1.

The Secretary reports great enthusiasm for the work of the N.A.A.C.P. on the Pacific coast. This is the first time Mr. White has made an extended visit to California since he came to the association in 1918. When the N.A.A.C.P. annual conference was held in Los Angeles in 1928, Mr. White was in Europe on a Guggenheim fellowship. He did make one appearance in Los Angeles in the spring of 1937 with Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan, of New York, on a nationwide tour of large centers seeking to arouse sentiment for passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill in the Senate.

Kansas City, Mo., Branch Fights for Defense Jobs

The Kansas City, Mo., branch of the NAACP is making a vigorous protest

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against discrimination shown in branches of our national defense and in work opportunities by local industries which have received government contracts to manufacture national defense supplies and equipment. More than 200 members turned out to attend a special protest meeting at 8 o'clock Wednesday, October 23, at the Paseo Y.M.C.A. The speakers were the Rev. D. A. Holmes, Thomas A. Webster, Executive Secretary of the Urban League, and Earl D. Thomas, principal of the R. T. Coles Vocational school. Carl R. Johnson, president of the branch, presided. T. B. Watkins, only Negro member of the local draft board was unable to be present because of a call meeting of the Board.

Rev. Holmes made a speech protesting not only the discrimination shown by local industries, but also the segregation and intimidation practiced by the local park officials and policemen. "With the rich cultural background of the Negro, and with the Negro's ever loyal response to the call to the colors, it is deplorable that Negroes must be denied the right to live, and the right to enjoy life, and the right to participate in the National Defense Program," said Rev. Holmes.

Mr. Webster summed up the local work opportunities as they stand to date with respect to Negroes in industries with National Defense contracts. He cited the Standard Steel Works with a contract of more than one million dollars. The management states that it is not the policy of the firm to hire Negroes and the policy will not be changed. Many other firms were named, each refusing to hire Negroes. "Negroes should be given the opportunity to work in these industries, because they must help pay the taxes to support the program," said Webster.

Mr. Thomas said the R. T. Coles school stands ready to train Negroes under the National Defense Program in any trade except metal work. The Coles school already has a class in Auto Mechanics and Woodworking and is looking forward to having many other training programs added, including airplane ground mechanics. Only a unified demand on the part of the majority of Negroes will cause an increase in training programs under the National Defense Program.

Several visitors from Richmond, Missouri attended the protest meeting and spoke in favor of the protest.

Mr. Johnson, summing up the protests, said the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People must be lauded for having had included in the National Defense Law provisions which make it unlawful to descriminate because of race, creed, or color. "We must take advantage of this law. The number of Negro training schools under the National Defense must be increased and work opportunities must be found in industry for these people who receive training," he said.

Some of the suggestions coming from the audience were:

1. That we send a telegram to Walter White demanding that he call every NAACP president to Washington to meet with the President of the United States to protest the discrimination shown in the administration of the Defense Law.

2. That a local board of strategy be formed to plan our method of attack on discriminatory practices.

Both of these suggestions were followed. The attendance at the meeting was so encouraging that the branch feels it has the support and backing of the Negroes and can go further with increased determination to tear down the barriers against work opportunities for Negroes in this community.

N.A.A.C.P. Youth Director

James Allen

MADISON S. JONES, JR.

From more than twenty-five applicants Mr. Jones was chosen by the Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P. as the new full time youth director to have charge of the N.A.A.C.P. Youth Councils and college chapters. Mr. Jones began work November 1 and plunged immediately into his new job at the annual student conference at West Virginia State college, Institute, West Virginia, November 1–3. He succeeds Rev. James H. Robinson who has been part time acting youth director since the resignation of the former Juanita Jackson in September, 1937.

Mr. Jones was born in New York City and attended the public schools there . He is a graduate of Rhodes Preparatory school and of St. John's university of Brooklyn, and has done graduate work in history under the faculty of political science, graduate school, Columbia university. While at Columbia he studied under Professor Allan Nevins and Dr. James T. Shotwell.

Mr. Jones was for some time connected with the New York Life Insurance Company in the office of the vice-president and treasurer. Before that he had been active in the real estate field in Harlem in the offices of John M. Royall Inc.

While in college Mr. Jones was president of his freshman, sophomore and senior classes, president of the Student Council and on the staff of the college yearbook.

He is married to the former Muriel Rawlins, daughter of the late Dr. E. Elliott Rawlins, Harlem physician. They have one child, a son.

Branch News

Colorado: The first fall meeting of the Pueblo branch was held at the Eighth Street Baptist church, and a program arranged by Mrs. Myrtle Andrews included: a paper by Mrs. Ruth Snow; a special number by Mrs. Katherine Gibson; vocal number by Mrs. C. W. Banks; field highlights by Mrs. Jessie Jones; solo by Mrs. Mae Baker; and greeting by E. E. Hall, president of the branch.

Iowa: The nominating committee for the annual election of officers of the Keokuk branch included Mrs. Susie Draine, Al Triplett and Mrs. Hattie Carter. A recent meeting of the branch was entertained by a program presenting a vocal solo by Leonard Berry; reading by Miss Kathryn Waterfield; remarks by the Rev. W. Collins and Mrs. Kenneth South Meyers. Benediction was by Rev. Collins.

Louisiana: At the October meeting of the Baton Rouge branch, held at Mt. Zion Baptist church, a panel discussion of "What methods should the Negroes of Baton Rouge employ to elevate their economic status?" was participated in by Mrs. M. N. Ringold, Mrs. J. T. Thompson, Horatio C. Thompson, Mrs. Bettie Johnson, I. S. Powell, and Leon Wallace. The Southern University choir of fifty members furnished the music.

Massachusetts: A round table discussion of the co-operative movement, led by John R. Barreau and opened by Eddy P. Howard, was held in October following a meeting of the New Bedford branch. President Fred D. Bonner directed the business session at which a nominating committee including Mrs. John R. Barreau, chairman, Isaac Arenberg, Fred N. Jones, Mrs. Jones and Laura Helm, was appointed to bring in a slate of officers for the November election. Walter Bonner led a quartet of young men from the Unity Chorus

in several selections. Mr. Howard gave an historical sketch of the co-operative movement, and other participants were Frederick Fairfield, treasurer of the New Bedford Co-operative Society; Mr. Arenberg, Walter Bonner and Miss Maccabeah Arenberg, who has been studying co-operatives in New York for a year and plans to begin a lecture tour on the subject.

New Jersey: The second in a series of public meetings held by the Pleasantville branch, was attended by a very large crowd in October. George Murphy, director of publicity for the national office, was guest speaker. Roscoe Carroll, president, presided, and Rev. J. H. Hester delivered the invocation. Mrs. Mary Mitchell conducted the rally, and a number of visitors joined the organization.

New York: At a round table discussion of the topic "Has the Negro a Place in Democracy?," George B. Murphy and Dr. Leon W. Scott were principal speakers. Other speakers were Rev. Thomas Garland, Rev. Gerald Johnson, William Bradford, William O'Neill, and Edgar Wittes. Musical selections were rendered by Ruth Collins, Reuthena Green, Helen Pertella, and James Gibson. Officers of the branch are Benjamin Morrell, chairman; Decator Binford, vice-chairman; and Miss Zedorah Lynch, secretary.

Ohio: The Canton branch held its annual banquet in October, and Leonard Burt gave the main address. Mrs. Ella Warren, president gave the annual report; Dr. M. B. Williams, Rev. E. L. Lively, C. C. Lilly and A. A. Andrews also participated.

Pennsylvania: A complete utilization of all available Negro skills needed in defense industries was urged by Lt. L. A. Oxley, supervisor of the Negro Placement Service, Bureau of Employment Security, in an address before the Pittsburgh branch recently.

Dean William Pickens called upon Negroes to aid in the nation's defense program at a recent meeting of the Reading branch in Zion Baptist church. Theodore Templeton is president of the branch.

The Philadelphia branch has been active in the local move to have more Negroes added to police and fire posts of that city.

Tennessee: Juvenile delinquency and library facilities for Negroes were the main topics of discussion of the October meeting of the Chattanooga branch. Dr. R. A. Stephens is president of the branch.

Notice to Branches

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Send your branch news every month to The Crisis, deadline 10th of the month.

22 Colleges Represented At Student Conference

THE second annual student conference of the N.A.A.C.P. was held at West Virginia State college, Institute, W. Va., November 1–3, 1940. Delegates from twenty-two colleges and universities throughout the United States participated in the deliberations.

In keeping with the theme, "Negro Youth and the Survival of Democracy," commission groups had as their topics of discussion: "Democracy and its Rural Problems for Negro Youth"; "Democracy in National Defense"; "Influence of the International Crisis Upon the Problems of Negro Youth"; Democracy and Its Urban Problems"; "Political Strategy for Negro Youth in the Present Crisis."

The proceedings were divided into three assemblies, five commission groups and a roundtable, which on account of its size and subsequent popularity had to be divided into two groups.

Speakers at the assemblies included: Lester Granger, assistant executive secretary, National Urban League, who made the keynote address, "A Credo for Negro Youth"; T. Gillis Nutter, Charleston, West Virginia, and member of the N.A.A.P.C. board of directors, who spoke on "Supreme Court Decisions as Qualifying Decisions in Negro Citizenship"; Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College, on "Consistency Which Characterizes the Depreciation of Personality."

At the Sunday morning gathering, Dr. Vernon Johns, pastor of the First Baptist church, Charleston, presented "Attitudes Indicated in Building a New Order," in which he stressed the fact that the Negro of today, especially the Negro youth, had to open up new fields of endeavor to insure his subsequent success in living a full and abundant life. Roy Wilkins, editor of THE CRISIS, addressed the final assembly of the delegates Sunday afternoon. Rev. James H. Robinson, acting youth director of the association, reviewed his work with the youth department of the N.A.A.C.P. and stressed certain fundamental tenets which are vital and necessary in every youth program.

Commission group leaders included: Dr. Reid Jackson, Langston university; Rev. Robinson; Edward Swan, Director of Negro Affairs of the Michigan NYA; Lester Granger; and Madison S. Jones, Jr., new youth director of the association.

At the business session, held Sunday morning, November 3, the following officers of the student conference were elected: chairman, James T. Wright, Howard university; first vice-chairman, James Ramsay, Paine college; second vice-chairman, Miss Leontine Turpeau, West Virginia State college; secretary, Miss Etta Stanton, Talladega college; Members-at-Large: Earl Davis, West Virginia State college; Alma Montgomery, Miner Teachers' college; Otis Wells, Virginia Union university.

Regional representatives included: Roy Nichols, Lincoln university, (Pa.), northern; Robert Freeman, Claflin college, south; and Floyd Haynes, Youngstown, O., mid-west.

Faculty advisers for the northern areas included: Dean Thomas Hawkins, Howard university; Judge William H. Hastie, Washington, D. C. Mid-Western advisers: Dr. Reid Jackson, Langston university; Edward Swan, Michigan NYA. Southern advisers: Dr. F. D. Patterson, President Tuskegee Institute; Dean Lanier of Hampton Institute.

Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, was selected as the meeting place for the next conference, which will be held about the first of November, 1941.

Resolutions voted upon by the delegates included decisions on national defense, education, health and recreation, social agencies, leadership, political action, academic freedom of thought and speech, civil liberties (with special notice on the case of the Michigan students), the Texas primaries, and the universal exercise of the franchise by all citizens of the United States.

The West Virginia student chapter, whose arrangements committee was headed by Gloster B. Current, made extensive preparations for the conference and arranged many special features. Earl Davis was in charge of publicity. The West Virginia chapter has more than 200 members and had just concluded a successful membership campaign prior to the opening of the conference. President Davis and the college officials housed and entertained the delegates at a record low fee.

Book Reviews

FAULTY CHRONICLE

HARLEM: NEGRO METROPOLIS by Claude McKay. 262 pp. E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc., New York. $3.00.

Harlem, whose misfortune is that most of its chroniclers have been insensitive to the deep undercurrents of Negro life and their broad social import, is again the subject of Claude McKay's latest book. As one of its most active participants, and indeed one of its most excitable observers, it is natural that Harlem should be a topic in one way or another in three of his books and numerous magazine articles.

With a sharp eye turned toward a white audience and thus toward sales, McKay has this time covered much of the ground that has already been treated by himself and other authors. After first presenting a panoramic view of Harlem, he has chosen to discuss Father Divine, Marcus Garvey, cults, occultists, the "numbers game," Negro business, politicians, Sufi Abdul Hamid and organized labor. We are told again that during the twenties Harlem was the mecca of the Negro, drawing thousands from all parts of the world; that Negroes wore bizarre clothing; that Barron Wilkins, Leroy Wilkins and Edmonds operated large and extravagantly decorated places; that the "Top-hatted gentleman and his lady might be a Pullman porter with his lady going to a formal dance at the Renaissance (Ballroom) or just a big time procurer"; that Harlem preachers drink whisky; and that Negroes, as members of the lowest income group, are living far beyond their means.

Much misinformation is again repeated. For example, McKay says that 60 per cent of Harlem Negroes are on relief and 20 per cent hold WPA jobs, and "the rest, excepting the fortunate few in private employment, must be with Father Divine." This statement is contrary to the findings of the Mayor's Commission Report, which in 1936 reported that those receiving relief numbered about 50 per cent of all the Harlem families, a figure which included WPA workers. The reference to Father Divine is manifestly extravagant. Nor will many believe, as McKay states, that when Negroes moved into Harlem they "willingly paid from a hundred to two hundred per cent more rent than did the whites." His reference to Henry Lincoln Johnson as Marcus Garvey's attorney during the organizer's trial for using the mails to defraud is also incorrect. As a matter of fact the southern lawyer represented Garvey's co-defendants, and Garvey, after summarily dismissing Cornelius W. McDougald, engaged Armin Cohn, a Jewish attorney. Nevertheless he has given much sympathetic attention to the career of Garvey, which is, outside of newspaper and magazine stories, one of the first extended treatments of the great leader.

McKay's unhappy peeve with Negroes and white radicals, begun in his autobiography *A Long Way from Home*, is carried into *Harlem: Negro Metropolis*. For instance, in the face of overwhelming evidence he declares that the notorious Sufi Abdul Hamid's street fulminations were not anti-Semitic, and attributes the attack on him to Communistic propaganda. Again, his new found racialism causes this penitent from the radical movement to now espouse a lukewarm Booker T. Washington philosophy about Negro business. and advocate a Black Economy at a time when men like Abram L. Harris have observed that the world (and indeed Harlem), has entered a period of corporate control.

The subjects that McKay has chosen to deal with are ones that could stand serious treatment by a sincere thinker, but McKay only succeeds in venting his spleen on his enemies, who judging by this book, are legion. His latest work is mere surface comment and captious criticism; those who have followed his writings know of course that in particular he is furiously critical of the Communists. It is apparent that McKay did not approach his subject with the thoroughness and sincerity of a James T. Farrell, who treats of the Irish; nor is he as sympathetic as Pietro di Donato, who writes of the Italian people. *Harlem: Negro Metropolis* is decidedly one of McKay's lesser efforts. For, while he sets out to make a profound study of Harlem life, his work emerges only as an extended gossip column, and its author a black Winchell.

—Roi Ottley

CHARMING CHILDREN'S BOOK

THE LOST ZOO. By Christopher Cat and Countee Cullen. New York: Harper and Brothers. $2.50

This book is as original as it is charming. Christopher Cat would be cynically amused to know that you doubt he helped write this book. He would just put it down to human conceit than which there is none more colossal except perhaps Christopher Cat's. Countee Cullen, well known among human poets, has the rare distinction of owning the only literary cat in America. Christopher is a descendant of a long line of feline aristocrats who always did their bit for history by handing down from father to son the stories of the

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It is all so delightfully fresh that I am now convinced that all poets should keep cats. Christopher seems destined to join Anatole France's extraordinary friend, Hamilcar, in the animal Hall of Fame.

—JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER

ADVENTUROUS LIFE

THE BIG SEA, by Langston Hughes. Alfred A. Knopf, New York 355 pp. $3.00.

One contemplates an autobiography by Langston Hughes with a deal of misgiving. Hughes certainly looms large enough in Negro literature, perhaps in American literature too, to rate a biography, especially if he should be tragically removed from among the living as his career approaches midstream. Autobiography is a different matter. It is usually undertaken when an author has grown venerable in years and rich in experience, and implies that he can look backward upon his life with satisfaction. Autobiography usually indicates the waning of an author's creative powers too, a decline of his sense of objectivity and a turning inward of the spirit. There are notable exceptions, of course, and let us hope this book is one of them.

To observe that the book is interesting is hardly to praise it. Most autobiographies are interesting, for the simple reason that every man is interesting, to the limit of his capacity, when he is talking about something important; and every man thinks his own life is important. In The Big Sea, however, the interest is not derived solely from the subjective ardor of a man talking about himself. The narrative is crowded with experiences and incidents, and a few adventures, which make enjoyable if not exciting reading, aside from whatever influence they may have exerted upon the author's life.

After his childhood, which was no more eventful than that of most any alert, intelligent boy, Hughes began to go places and see things. He began his venture over the horizon with an arresting if not a significant gesture. All during his school days, followed by one year in Columbia university, he had been an avid reader. When he obtained a job as mess boy on a tramp steamer bound for Africa he carried a trunk full of books aboard with him. Suddenly, he decided that he had seen enough of life filtered through other men's minds and embalmed in their books. Now, he wanted to meet life at first hand, and nothing but life, with no comment or interpretation but that of his own mind. As the ship steamed past Sandy Hook,

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he carried his books, all of them, to the deck and threw them into the sea.

He saw quite a lot of life before he began to read again. He saw his ship mates luxuriating in the wine shops and bordellos of the Azores and the coast towns of Africa; he almost starved in the artists' quarter of Paris; he roved the waterfront of Genoa with a band of beachcombers; he was sickened by the unleashed lusts of sex-hungry sailors; he was amused by hilarious free-for-all fist fights and alcoholic orgies the like of which are seldom seen on land or sea this side of Valhalla; he experienced brief but felicitous friendships and interludes of lyrical love. He saw many of the great museums, libraries and cathedrals of Europe and rubbed hams with numerous minor celebrities. He lived precariously in the flesh but expansively in the spirit, and altogether had a grand and glorious time during his days of hunger and adventure on the far side of the Atlantic.

If he came in contact with any of the really great men and women of the time, outstanding statesmen, leading journalists or famous artists or writers, he does not mention them. His narrative refers only to the near great, the shabby and the picaresque. Hughes would probably comment that social mavericks were precisely the people he wanted to meet and observe, for it is among them that life is most lush and interesting; and he wanted to know life.

Back home in America, he circulated among the best of his own race, the second best of the white world, an order of social fauna definitely superior to his associates in the Latin Quarter of Paris. But home or abroad, in Paris or on Park avenue, he kept the common touch. If he gained anything from his travels and experiences, it was the ability to rate men according to their personal worth rather than by their station or possessions. It is probable that he has always had that talent.

Hughes refers to his literary achievements rather modestly, devoting most of his attention to his poetry. The reader gets the impression that he considers his verse more important than his prose. If that inference is correct, one might be inclined to quarrel with him. More than any other poet, Hughes caught and expressed the dominant note of his generation of Aframericans—a chord of mingled insouciance and revolt. But most of his poems reflect the spirit of the years in which they were written and have already begun to date. His prose may have a more enduring quality. *The Weary Blues*, written to the tempo of the jazz age, may be untelligible to post-jazz age readers. *Not Without Laughter* may not be a great novel, but it is an interesting novel; and it will remain interesting as long as discriminating readers enjoy competent portrayal of the wistfulness and poignancy which are constant factors of life. Most of the tales in *The Ways of White Folks* will elude the antiquarian many a year, and two or three of them are among the finest short stories this reviewer has encountered in American fiction.

The Big Sea is a valuable addition to Hughes' growing volume of prose. He writes with enthusiasm and candor, and the latter quality gives the narrative the assurance of permanence. It will always be useful to future scholars searching for sidelights on the history of Negro literature.

Theophilus Lewis

Forlorn

I have known naught but night
Since time erased your name,
Since Death stretched her pale hands
forward
And sang a mute refrain.

—JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

First Martyr

(*Continued from page* 386)

Caldwell, and Patrick Carr on Monday evening, March 5, 1770 before the Hon. Benjamin Lynde, John Cushing, Peter Oliver, and Edmund Trowbridge, Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, Court of Assize, and General Gaol Delivery, Held at Boston, by Adjournment, November 27, 1770.

Indignation against the outrage perpetrated by the British soldiery was somewhat quelled when Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson ordered Captain Preston bound over for trial; he was duly tried and acquitted in October. In November the common soldiers involved in the incident were tried; their counsel was Robert Auchmuty, assisted by Josiah Quincy and John Adams, second president of the United States, who was to write in 1816:

"Not the Battle of Lexington nor Bunker Hill, not the surrender of Burgoyne or Cornwallis, were more important events in American history than the battle of King Street [now State Street] on the 5th of March, 1770."

Prior to the trial the pressure of a mass meeting of Bostonians compelled the British regiments to withdraw to Castle Island in Boston harbor. The trial, therefore, took place in a relatively calm atmosphere. It was disclosed that two balls had penetrated Attucks, one in each breast. The culprit was Hugh Montgomery, who was found guilty of

(*Continued on next page*)

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manslaughter, branded in the hand, and sent to Castle Island.

The Memorial

As early as March 5, 1851 a petition was presented by Negroes to the Massachusetts Legislature, asking for an appropriation of $1,500 for the erection of a monument in memory of Crispus Attucks. Unflagging was the zeal of William Cooper Nell (1816-1874), one of the earliest American Negro historians, author of *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution* (1855), to secure due official recognition of this contribution by Negro Americans, in the person of Attucks, to the national welfare. Regrettably, he did not live to see his dream become a reality. However, in 1888, the Boston Massacre monument on Boston Common was erected at a cost of $10,000. Robert Kraus was the sculptor. In lieu of the great Frederick Douglass, who found it impossible to accept, owing to duties connected with the Republican Presidential campaign, the orator at the dedicatory exercises was the publicist John Fiske (1842-1901), and the poet was the foremost Irish-American bard of all time, John Boyle O'Reilly (1844-1890). Fiske pointed out that the erection was "performing an act of justice too long delayed." O'Reilly stressed the unity of America's Negro and white citizenry in these eloquent lines:

"Oh, blood of the people! changless tide,
through century, creed, and race!
Still one, as the sweet salt sea is one,
though tempered by sun and place;
The same in the ocean currents, and the
same in the sheltered seas;
Forever the fountain of common hopes
and kindly sympathies.
Indian and Negro, Saxon and Celt, Teuton and Latin and Gaul—
Mere surface shadow and sunshine,
while the sounding unifies all!
One love, one hope, one duty theirs!
No matter the time or ken,
There never was separate heart-beat in
all the races of men!"

Of Concord granite, the monument is impressive to the beholder. Its proportions are as follows: twenty-five feet, six inches, in height; ten feet, six inches, at the base; eight feet, two inches, round pedestal. The inscription in the upper left-hand corner of the bronze plaque depicting the scene of the massacre—Attucks is in the very foreground—reads: "From that Moment we may date the Severance of the British Empire. Daniel Webster." In the upper right-hand corner is inscribed: "On that Night the Foundation of American Independence was laid. John Adams."

The statue of "Free America," which surmounts the whole, weighs 1790 pounds, and stands seven feet high.

Visitors from all parts of the habitable globe have gazed upon the monument and visited the grave of the martyrs. Annually during his life-time William Monroe Trotter (1872-1934), the famous editor of the Boston *Guardian*, led the pilgrimage, accompanied chiefly by members of the National Equal Rights League. High officials of State and City pay their homage. Thus, as March 5 rolls around every year, America is reminded of the heroic, self-sacrificing patriotism of Negro Americans, of their active participation in all her struggles to build democracy.

Notice of Nominations

The Committee on Nominations nominates the following persons for membership on the National Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P.:

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(For Terms Expiring December 31, 1942)

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The Committee on Nominations recommends to the Board of Directors the election of Mr. William Allen White, Emporia, Kansas, as Vice-President.

These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association to be held on Monday, January 6, 1941.

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Race and Racism

(*Continued from page* 389)

language, of race and culture, of social inheritance and heredity, of the notion that great peoples are a pure race, etc. Unlike most American writers on the subject of race she admits that the Negro race has proud cultural achievements and that slavery stripped him of his inheritance. She also debunks the "intelligence tests" and shows that their conclusions are not valid criteria for the determination of racial superiority or inferiority.

In no recent book that I have read on race have I found so much sound information packed into so few pages and written in such a delightful, untechnical style. The author also has a knack for hitting upon the happy illustration to drive home her points and conclusions. Reading *Race* calls to mind the fact that the first trenchant attack on racism was written by a Haitian Negro, Antenor Firmin. His *De l'égalité des races humaines* (1885) is still readable and sound in most of its conclusions. You can talk more intelligently about race and racism after you have read Dr. Benedict's pungent little book.

James W. Ivy.

Night Thoughts

O God
Your heaven is beautiful to-night
Each tiny, twinkling blue light is, for me
A promise of Eternity—beyond the stars
Where Joy and her sister, Hope, abide,
Contented,
On the Canaan side.

—J. Elizabeth Carr

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December; Training Warplane

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Durham, North Carolina

C. C. SPAULDING, *President*

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